

## Pastor's Weekly Devotional- June 11, 2015

### **“Perseverance”**

The Chinese have a remarkable symbol for “perseverance.” They describe the word using characters. The two symbols are: a knife and a heart, meaning “to continue with a knife in your heart.”

What is the knife in your heart? IT is a lack of self-esteem. Rejection by others. A rebellious child. A longing for love or approval. Broken dreams. Shattered hope. And the list goes on and on.

Joseph was given a God-given dream early in life in the Book of Genesis. But it didn't work the way he expected. He was betrayed by his brothers. Sold as a slave. Falsely accused of attempted rape. Placed in prison but finally ended on the throne of Egypt as its second ruler.

Was it a painful process? Did he hurt? Was he disappointed? Was he discouraged? Yes! Yes! Yes! But he never lost hope. He persevered. He held onto God. His experience was very painful. There was nothing pleasurable throughout the process but he recognized God's fingerprints etched into every trial and test. So he persevered. In the end, he came out with flying colors!

“Perseverance” is needed for a successful marriage, for a successful relationship, for a healthy friendship. It is easy to give in, give up or play the blaming game. But when you are truly committed to Christ, God uses perseverance to your advantage as found in Romans 5:3-5: “Suffering produces perseverance; perseverance produces character; character produces hope.”

When troubles come, you have a two-edged tool. It sweetens or embitters the heart. You keep your friendship or you distance yourself. You are drawn closer to God or you are driven from Him. The choice is yours! God desires you to persevere. If you do, He will provide the power and strength (read Colossians 1:11). There is really no excuse!

Have a blessed week! **This Sunday we will be celebrating Holy Communion and I will be preaching on: “The Meeting of Two Commanders.”**

Have a blessed week!  
Pastor Sewdin